

*STAFFORD COUNTY
HISTORICAL COMMISSION
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY - AUGUST 4, 2011*

The Stafford County Historical Commission held its regular monthly meeting, Thursday, August 4, 2011, in Conference Room ABC, Government Center; 1300 Courthouse Road. The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM by Anita Dodd.

ROLL CALL

| <u>MEMBERS</u> | <u>PRESENT</u> | <u>ABSENT</u> | <u>STAFF</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|--|
| Anita Dodd - Chair | P | | Kathy Baker - Assistant Director - Planning & Zoning |
| Ann Best-Rolls - Vice Chair | P | | Terry Baxley Morton - Commission Clerk |
| Barbara Kirby - Secretary | P | | Supervisor Harry Crisp |
| Jane Conner | P | | |
| David Rodriguez MD | P | | |
| Frank White | | A | |

PRESENTATIONS BY THE PUBLIC

Glenn Trimmer - Chair - Friends of Stafford Civil War Parks - (FSCWP).

- Glenn Trimmer and the Commission discussed improving communication between the two groups.
- Glenn Trimmer felt he has not received much assistance from the Commission.
- The Commission iterated the Civil War Park may be a candidate for the Historic National Registry.
- It iterated that it makes recommendations not policies.
- It explained that projects falling under Section 106 are required to undergo a Phase 1 study.
- It said it was not informed of FSCWP Steering Committee meetings.
- Glenn Trimmer said the Civil War Trust grant will be reimbursed to the County.
- He said the park is not being paid for with tax payer's money.
- He said he spent a month on the park management plan and that others from the Steering Committee were not able to contribute the necessary time. He said he studied other historical park management plans in the County and the FSCWP plan is more detailed. He said a management plan is a requirement of Section 106. He said he is on the sixth draft of the plan.
- He said the park is well on its way.
- He asked the Commission for assistance in necessary research for placement on the Historic National Registry.
- He encouraged the Commission to please schedule a tour of the park with him.
- Supervisor Crisp said he wanted to ask Tim Baroody, Deputy County Administrator, who is on the FSCWP Steering Committee, where it stands, if it needs replacement or additional members, an assessment in general.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The June 2, 2011 Commission meeting minutes were unanimously approved with a minor correction.

Proposed Ordinance 006-47 dated July 18, 2006 Regarding Archaeological Surveys & Investigations - Discussion with Supervisor Harry Crisp.

- The Commission desires to have one Board member at a time attend its meetings regarding the proposed preservation ordinance. It hopes the Board will understand why it is important and be able to answer questions.
- Supervisor Crisp said he could not find his copy of the ordinance that afternoon, but would locate it later.
- He said he agreed with having Board members attend Commission meetings regarding the subject.
- He said it may be effective to apply the ordinance Countywide or to UDAs and RDAs (urban development areas and redevelopment areas).
- Kathy Baker said the proposed ordinance could be based on zoning categories.
- Barbara Kirby listed approximately 20 historical areas that have been destroyed.
- Kathy Baker said with more bi-right development the County has no right to ask for preservation.
- Anita Dodd disagreed with applying the ordinance to sections of the County.
- Supervisor Crisp said with major developers developing commercial as well as residential, the requirement should be placed where there are known sites of historical interest and a phase 1 survey should be required.
- Anita Dodd iterated it only applies to development.
- Barbara Kirby said the Planning Commission looks at large developments, major subdivisions, in some cases 100s of acres.
- Supervisor Crisp said the Board wants to steer development toward UDAs and RDAs.
- Ann Best Rolls said she thinks, politically, the County is more conservative. She said she thinks the proposed ordinance goes straight to most people and the core ideology of their private property laws.
- Anita Dodd said municipalities will always have ordinances that are controversial and everyone may not agree with them. She said Fairfax County has had a preservation ordinance in effect for probably 50 years. She said Prince William and Spotsylvania Counties have one in place. She said Stafford is the only County in the area without one in place.
- She said the County can only make recommendations, it cannot enforce preservation. She said the County no longer has a preservation planner.
- She said the County owns approximately 20 cultural resources itself.
- Ann Best Rolls said UDAs are a compromise.
- She said the time spent on the books is important to a preservation ordinance in making it go forward.
- Barbara Kirby said Anita Dodd and others have worked toward this for the County for at least 15 years.
- Ann Best Rolls said it should be accomplished in an order that is comfortable.
- Barbara Kirby reiterated developers have stated they just want to know the rules upfront and then they have no problems working with them.
- Anita Dodd said the Commission and others should not give up. She said Counties around Stafford have had opposition but they were tenacious and got cultural resources that their County can be proud of and can produce revenue.
- She said there are rules for determination set by the Secretary of State explaining how to determine if a site is eligible for the National Register. She said it is all there, you just need to implement it within your County.
- She said educating everyone on the subject is important. She said the Commission wants to educate Board members about preservation so they can have a better understanding. She said the Commission is willing to educate communities and talk to people about preservation. She said it is a reason for getting the ordinance passed.

- She said when she first started working on the ordinance she met with developers. All but one developer was looking forward to having the ordinance because they would know exactly what was expected of them whereas now they do not.
- Ann Best Rolls asked Kathy Baker to provide a flow-chart on the whole planning process. Kathy Baker said the planning application explains everything the County is looking for and all the steps involved.
- Anita Dodd said if the County does not apply a cultural resource management plan the County will not have any cultural resources to worry about.
- Supervisor Crisp said he thinks the Board needs to be educated about the issue, the problem and the need.
- He said I think we need to do something to try to preserve our cultural resources to the best of our ability. He said we are resources strained from a financial point of view. He said, that is probably going to last a while longer before we get to a point where we can really talk seriously about having a County architect or restoring the preservation planner position because we are still in that mode of down-sizing County government.
- Barbara Kirby said in the mean-time we are going to lose cultural resources in the County.
- Supervisor Crisp said education is a factor. He said you have to lay out the need, figure out the approach, the context, how it compares with others in surrounding localities. He said he thinks the end result is important in terms of what happens to any artifacts that are uncovered.
- Barbara Kirby said the County is not in a position, at this point, of assuring that everything is in place to start with, but when the County first started it did not have the group it has now for volunteers. She said the group now is absolutely fantastic.

Sherwood Farm.

- The Commission unanimously approved Anita Dodd sending a draft letter and an op-ed for the newspaper to the Commission via e-mail regarding preserving the historical sites on the farm for its editing and suggestions to be sent to the owners of Sherwood Farm.

Historic Preservation Award Process.

- Anita Dodd asked Commission members to review the process from last year and list any suggestions or changes for this year's awards.

REPORT BY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON

- Anita Dodd received a copy of the Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail report dated June, 2011.
- She received a copy of a survey on the Counting House parking lot dated April, 2010.
- She made copies for everyone from web-sites that have management plans for parks.
- Glenn Trimmer brought plans and information about the Civil War Park for the Commission to share.
- The Commission decided to invite Keith Dayton, Director, Public Works; Chris Hoppe, Director, Parks, Recreation & Community Facilities; Tim Baroody, Deputy County Administrator; and Glenn Trimmer, Chair, FSCWP to its next meeting to discuss the Civil War Park management plan.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:53 PM.

Anita Dodd - Commission Chair

Barbara Kirby - Commission Secretary